

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Robert A. PRANIS et al.

Group Art Unit: 1743

Serial No.: 10/660,843

Examiner: Unassigned

Confirmation No.: 7874

Filed: 12 September 2003

Docket No.: 58662US002

Title: WELDED SAMPLE PREPARATION ARTICLES AND METHODS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

We are transmitting the following documents along with this Transmittal Sheet (which is submitted in triplicate):

- ☒ An itemized return postcard.
☐ A Petition for Extension of Time for __ month(s) and a check in the amount of \$__ for the required fee.
☒ An Information Disclosure Statement (2 pgs); copies of 0 applications; 1449 forms (2 pgs); and copies of 4 documents cited on the 1449 forms.
☐ A check in the amount of \$__, for __.
☐ A certified copy of a __ application, Serial No. __, filed ____, the right of priority of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.
☐ Other:
☐ Amendment __ No Additional fee is required. __ The fee has been calculated as shown:

Fee Calculation for Claims Pending After Amendment					
	Pending Claims after Amendment (1)	Claims Paid for Earlier (2)	Number of Additional Claims (1-2)	Cost per Additional Claim	Additional Fees Required
Total Claims				x \$18 =	
Independent Claims				x \$86 =	
One or More New Multiple Dependent Claims Presented? If Yes, Add \$290 Here →					
Total Additional Claim Fees Required					

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers and please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4895. Triplicate copies of this sheet are enclosed.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 10th day of February, 2004.

MUETING, RAASCH & GEBHARDT, P.A.

By: 

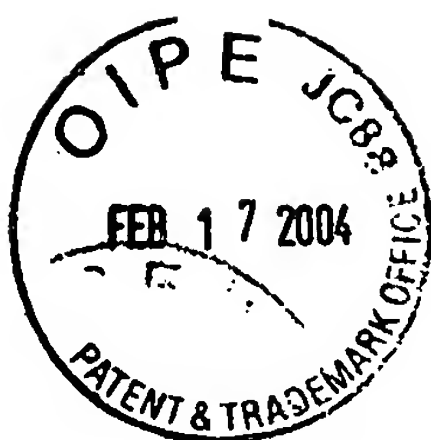
Kevin W. Raasch

Reg. No.: 35,651

Direct Dial: 612-305-1218

Facsimile: 612-305-1228

(LARGE ENTITY TRANSMITTAL UNDER RULE 1.8)



PATENT
Docket No. 58662US002

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Serial No.: 10/660,843)	Examiner:	Unassigned
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)		
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)		
For:		<u>WELDED SAMPLE PREPARATION ARTICLES AND METHODS</u>	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with C.F.R. §§ 1.97 *et. seq.*, the materials enclosed herewith are brought to the attention of the Examiner as possibly being of interest in connection with the above-identified patent application. Per M.P.E.P. § 609, the information cited in the present Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. Consideration of each of the documents listed on the attached 1449 forms is respectfully requested. **As this patent application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications listed on the attached 1449 forms have not been submitted.** Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. §609, Applicants further request that a copy of the 1449 form(s), marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next Official Communication.

It is believed that no fee is due, as this Information Disclosure Statement is filed prior to the receipt of any Action on the merits. However, in the event a fee is due, please charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Account No. 13-4895.

Information Disclosure Statement

Page 2 of 2

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For: WELDED SAMPLE PREPARATION ARTICLES AND METHODS

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives at the below-listed telephone number, if they can be of any assistance during prosecution of the present application.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 10th day of February, 2004.

Signature: 

Name: KEVIN W. RAASCH

Respectfully submitted for

Robert A. PRANIS et al.

By

Muetting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A.

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10 FEBRUARY 2004
Date

KWR/rgg

By: 

Kevin W. Raasch

Reg. No. 35,651

Direct Dial (612)305-1218

**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

Atty. Docket No.: 58662US002

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Application Filing Date: 12 September
2003

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Information Disclosure Statement mailed:

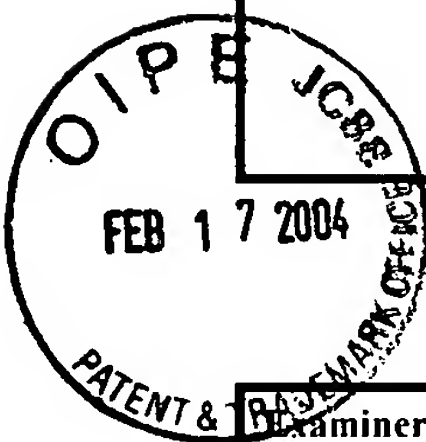
February 10, 2004

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	3,540,856	11/17/70	Rochte et al.			
	3,540,857	11/17/70	Martin			
	3,540,858	11/17/70	Rochte et al.			
	4,153,661	05/08/79	Ree et al.			
	4,304,865	12/08/81	O'Brien et al.			
	4,373,519	02/15/83	Errede et al.			
	4,460,642	07/17/84	Errede et al.			
	4,565,663	01/21/86	Errede et al.			
	4,810,381	03/07/89	Hagen et al.			
	4,906,378	03/06/90	Hagen et al.			
	4,948,442	08/14/90	Manns			
	4,948,564	08/14/90	Root et al.			
	4,971,736	11/20/90	Hagen et al.			
	5,071,610	12/10/91	Hagen et al.			
	5,147,539	09/15/92	Hagen et al.			
	5,207,915	05/04/93	Hagen et al.			
	5,238,621	08/24/93	Hagen et al.			
	5,264,184	11/23/93	Aysta et al.			
	5,279,742	01/18/94	Markell et al.			
	5,464,541	11/07/95	Aysta et al.			
	5,620,663	04/15/97	Aysta et al.			
	6,492,183 B1	12/10/02	Perman et al.			

EXAMINER**Date Considered**

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



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Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	2002/0155034 A1	10/24/02	Perman et al.			
	2003/0226796 A1	12/11/03	Bayer, Jr. et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	EP 0 645 187 A2	03/29/95	EPO				
	EP 0 098 534 A1	01/18/84	EPO				
	EP 0 098 534 B1	09/10/86	EPO				
	WO 03/103812 A1	12/18/03	WIPO				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Authors, Title, Date, Pertinent Papers, etc.)

Examiner Initial	Document Description
	NONE

EXAMINER

Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.